The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Samuel Gompers said:
Unless the working people are organized to express their desires and needs and organized to express their will, any other method tends to weaken initiative.

WHOLE NO. 2072 | WILLIAM GREEN, *President* | WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1950 | GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* | VOL. 40, NO. 52

U.S. Denies Labor A Voice In Policy-Making On Defense As Home Front Snarl Grows Worse

HAND TRUMAN PRICE-WAGE POLICY.—Washington.—Members of the United Labor Policy Committee pictured leaving White House after handing President Truman over-all plan for effective and equitable method for over-all price control, wage stabilization and voluntary manpower controls. L. to r., Railway Labor Executives President George T. Leighty, AFL Vice President George M. Harrison, CIO Vice President Walter P. Reuther, CIO Executive Board Member Jacob S. Potofsky, ex-CIO president Philip Murray, AFL Vice President Dan W. Tracy, AFL President William Green, CIO Secretary-Treasurer James B. Carey and Machinists President A. J. Hayes.

Meany Urges Pay-Price Rules Be Made by Those Who Know Score

Washington.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany called on the government to give labor an equal voice with industry and agriculture so that price-wage stabilization decisions can be "made by those who know the score."

He said in a radio interview that it may be spectacular for an individual to issue price and wage freezes but that isn't the practical way.

"The decisions should be made by those who know the score by representatives of business, labor and agriculture who understand the problem and are willing to help the government build up," Mr. Meany said. "Up to the present time the government has denied labor a voice in industry policy and in making decisions in the defense program."

Mr. Meany was interviewed over the American Broadcasting Company network by Philip Pearl, AFL public relations director.

Pledging labor's full support to defense mobilization, Mr. Meany said "we can yet save the peace" if America will build up the "tremendous military superiority that even the communists will realize that war against us would be hopeless."

"To make the defense program a success, Mr. Meany recommended:

"I think the first and most basic step is to establish a sound and practical working economy now during the present period. Prices and rents must be controlled effectively. This is possible under the law passed by Congress several months ago. That law as amended promptly to assure that the cost of living will not get out of hand and just hurt both producers and consumers alike. That is essential also. Organized labor has volunteered to accept wage stabilization for the duration of the emergency if the cost of living is kept on an even keel. But if wages are frozen while prices are permitted to rise, it will only weaken the army of production and provoke all kinds of needless trouble. This is a vexing problem. No one likes controls, least of all labor. But we have to use common sense. In a national emergency, we are all forced to abandon the methods of business-as-usual and politics-as-usual.

"In a free country like ours, voluntary cooperation is far more effective than compulsion. Within the framework of a planned general policy and under an effective control law, the government should rely upon trade unions of industry, labor and farm representatives serving on appointment boards, in dealing with specific price and wage cases. By that means the people affected by the decisions will be assured of just consideration of their difficulties and be much more willing to accept the outcome. In my way of thinking, freezing will bring about inequities rather than stabilization. We have to permit some flexibility to keep full and continuous production.

"The leaders of every group in our economy life realize that the time has come to put the national interest above selfish interest. A remarkable spirit of national unity is developing in the country. That is the strongest asset we have in coping with a national emergency. The government should encourage that spirit of national unity and put it to work for the success of the American program. There is no need of cracking the whip over the American people. Just tell us what has to be done and we will see to it that it is done."

HERE'S IDEA

(By Cooperative News Service)

Iowa Falls, Iowa.—Something different in public relations is unfolding here.

Five cooperative are telling their story jointly to the community through a series of information projects, including 10 direct mailings and institutional newspaper ads. These ads stress what cooperatives mean to the community. A booklet directed at Iowa Falls businessmen is in preparation.

Next year a survey of sentiment will be made in order to judge the results of the joint campaign. Says local editor Carl Hamilton, "It may well become a pattern which other communities will want to think about."

It may be a technique unions will want to think about using.

Disappointing 81st Congress Ends Term

Washington.—The 81st Congress, which was elected to repeal the Taft-Hartley law and didn't, passed into history at 2 a.m.

Failure to repeal the oppressive law was the No. 1 disappointment of a Congress that was elected principally through the efforts of organized labor on a Democratic Party platform pledged to repeal of the act.

The alliance of reactionary Republicans and Dixiecrats, formed early in the first session of the 81st, blocked repeal of Taft-Hartley and held fast to deal a number of other disappointing setbacks to all the people in the 4 years that this Congress sat.

Other disappointments included killing off middle-income cooperative housing, refusing to deal with attempts to enact civil rights legislation, and the enactment of many restrictive clauses such as the Knowland Amendment to the Social Security Act and the meat-axe amendments to appropriations measures to reduce the number of workers.

The disappointments of the 81st were partially balanced by enactment of the first liberalization of New Deal measures. These included expansion of the 14-year-old Social Security Act to include 10 million additional persons and liberalize benefits, and raising of the 12-year-old minimum wage from 40 to 75 cents an hour.

Also on the credit side were repeal of the federal tax on oleomargarine, a liberalized law to admit 400,000 displaced persons till next June 1, extension of rent controls, enactment of a public housing program, extension of the Marshall Plan for one more year and appropriating funds for the Point Four operating.

There were 2 regular sessions of the 81st Congress and a "lame duck" session which ran from Nov. 27 to Jan. 3. Returning from Nov. 7 elections in which many friends of the people backed by labor were defeated, this "lame duck" session made up the expected record by extending rent controls to next March 31, approving extra $38 million emergency food aid to Yugoslavia and appropriating funds for the Korean war and defense speedup against communist aggression.

The AFL executive council will draft a legislative program for the first session of the new 82d Congress —elected Nov. 7—at its meeting beginning in Miami on Jan. 22.

MEANY DISAGREES WITH HOOVER

Washington.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany says former President Herbert Hoover's speech urging America to draw her defense into a small Atlantic and Pacific perimiter is isolationism.

"If we followed his advice," Mr. Meany said, "we would be turning over all of Europe and Asia to the communists by default.

"By Mr. Hoover's plan war, if it comes, would be fought on American territory rather than on the enemy's territory.

"To make the defense program a success, Mr. Meany recommended:

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Forward, America! AFL Aim For 1951

NEW YEAR STATEMENT

By WILLIAM GREEN
President
American Federation of Labor

Labor is determined to go forward with America in 1951—in peace, if possible; in war, if it is unavoidable.

The plans of the trade union movement, like those of every American family, are contingent upon developments in the tense international situation.

Never before has our country been less isolated from the rest of the world. Never before have our people been more alert to the seriousness of the threat against America from Soviet aggression.

In the emergency that confronts us, the achievement of effective national unity is of the first importance.

Labor is willing to take the first step in that direction. We invite American business and management to join with us in working out a mutually satisfactory program in cooperation with the government that will assure economic stability during the defense program. We should not wait for an all-out war to take such action.

Social aggression constitutes a challenge to our free way of life. We can overcome that challenge if we stand together, as Americans have done in past emergencies.

At a time when every American family is being called upon to give its sons to the nation for military service, it is certainly not asking too much to suggest that leaders of business, agriculture and labor volunteer to work together in harmony for the strengthening of our home front.

We all have a supreme stake in freedom. We all have a common cause in the survival of America. We all abhor communism.

I am confident that with real teamwork America can vastly expand its defense production and at the same time protect the national economy from inflation. We vitally need wise domestic policies to enable our country to meet its heavy international responsibilities without undermining our standard of living or dangerously sapping the nation's economic strength. In fact, with maximum production at full employment we should be able to maintain the prosperity of our nation despite the critical world situation.

In my considered opinion, the best way to assure full labor-management cooperation in the critical days ahead is to repeal the Taft-Hartley Act and to substitute a new labor relations law that will be fair to management and labor alike, while protecting the public interest.

The drafters of the Taft-Hartley Act claim it has not hurt labor nor destroyed labor unions. They overlook the fact that the nation has enjoyed high employment and general prosperity in the last three years. They ignore the fact that the Taft-Hartley Act has brought organization of unorganized workers to a practical standstill since its enactment. They are oblivious to the fact that millions of unorganized American workers are still exploited and subjected to unjust conditions.

The American Federation of Labor is convinced that in the days ahead when American workers may be required to accept wage stabilization and other emergency measures affecting their freedom, repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act would serve to lighten their burden and encourage them to make necessary sacrifices willingly. We will therefore continue to press for its repeal by Congress in 1951. Other legislative objectives will depend upon whether we have war or peace.

I am confident that the maintenance of a strong and united foreign policy by America, coupled with a powerful rearmament program to fortify ourselves and our friends, can prevent a third world war or, at least, delay it indefinitely.

We must convince Soviet Russia that America has the will to fight and the strength to defend the principles of freedom and international justice. We must make the Soviet leaders understand once and for all that America is willing to live and let live in peacetime, but once war is forced upon us, we will accept only unconditional surrender.

American wage-earners face the future and its responsibilities seriously, but with confidence. We want peace and the opportunity that peace affords for new progress. But if we are compelled to defend ourselves in a second world war, we are determined to let nothing stand in the way of victory—victory that will mean not only a better America, but a better and more peaceful world in our time.

Release A.M. Papers Jan. 1, 1951

Auto Pay Frozen; Hutchings Asks Better Deal for Office Workers; Cost of Living Hits Another New High Peak

Washington.—The administration continued to deny labor a equal voice in mobilization for national defense as the home front snarl over prices, wages, production and manpower worsened.

AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany criticized the administration's denial of labor representation in the mobilization effort.

"It may sound very impressive and electrifying for a government official to issue sweeping price-freeze and wage-freeze orders but that is not the practical way of dealing with this problem," Mr. Meany said in an interview with Phil Pearl, AFL director of public relations, over the American Broadcasting Company network on Dec. 29.

"The decisions should be made by those who know the score, by the representatives of business, labor and agriculture who understand the problem and are willing to help the government solve it.

"Up to the present time the government has denied labor a voice in making policy and in making decisions in the defense program."

Mr. Meany's charges were aired only a matter of hours after the Wage Stabilization Board freeze wages in the passenger automobile industry until next March 1 and the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced another rise in the cost of living index to a new all-time high.

The 7 worst items thawed by Washington:

Auto Price-Wage Freeze—Economic Stabilization Director Alan Valentine obtained compliance from the auto industry to hold its passenger auto prices at Dec. 1 levels. The Wage Stabilization Board ordered wages of workers in passenger auto industry frozen at same levels until next March 1, including escalator clauses for increases as cost of living index rises. The Wage Board action was supported by labor members. President Lester Washburn and Secretary-Treasurer Anthony Doll of AFL United Auto Workers attended conference with board on auto industry wages prior to order.

Railroad Wage Settlement—The 22-months-old dispute between the nation's railroads and 4 operating unions representing 350,000 workers was finally settled for a 7½ cents per hour, up to 25 cents per day wage adjustment of one cent per hour increase for each one point rise in the cost of living. Chairman Charles E. Wilson, Conciliator Cyrus S. Ching and Fireman Paul E. Hall of AFL Railway Labor Executives Conference Committee called their wage chairmen to meetings early in January to vote on acceptance of the pact.

Office Workers Wages—President Paul R. Hutchings of the AFL Office Employees International Union in a letter to Economic Stabilizer Eric Johnston and Mr. Ching asked that new stabilization rules give the nation's millions of white collar workers a better deal than they received in World War II. He said World War II controls for these workers "were extraordinarily restrictive and unnecessarily harsh."

Cost of Living Rises Again—Retail prices of goods and services bought by moderate-income urban families continued to rise between mid-October and mid-November, surpassing the all-time high reached on Sept. 15. The Department of Labor's cost of living index rose from 174.8 to 175.6 on Nov. 15.

Tobin Backs 40-Hour Law—Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin issued a special statement to kill rumors and proposals for abandoning overtime pay and the basic straight-time 40 hours week. He said: "Any such backward steps of work would hinder, not help, the defense effort.

Cost of Living Hits Another New High—Retail prices of goods and services bought by moderate-income families in the nation's large cities rose another 0.2 percent to a new all-time high reached on Dec. 15, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced today. The Bureau's cost of living index now stands at 175.8 (1947-49=100).

The rise was reported by the Bureau's Chicago regional office which collects retail prices in that city every month. Increases were recorded in the cost of food, housing, clothing, and miscellaneous goods and services. Fuel and utility costs declined slightly.

Retail food prices rose 0.2 percent; household furnishings, 1.3 percent; fuel and refrigeration, 0.4 percent; miscellaneous goods and services, 0.6 percent; rents, 0.6 percent; apparel, 1.6 percent.

The over-all increase was 0.5 percent above Oct. 15.

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The AFL executive council will draft a legislative program for the first session of the new 82d Congress —elected Nov. 7—at its meeting beginning in Miami on Jan. 22.

CARE GRATEFUL

New York.—Paul Comly French, executive director CARE, thanked newspaper editors for helping the organization to deliver more than $100 million worth of aid to the people of Europe and Asia in the past 5 years.

"We hope that in the 1951 program CARE may continue to count upon the support of the American press," he said. AFL Vice President Matthew Woll is a vice president of CARE.

House in 'Sit-Down' On Union Shop Bill

Washington.—The House of Representatives pulled a sit-down strike on a bill to authorize the union shop on the nation's rail and air lines on Dec. 21.

Democrat Rep. Howard W. Smith blocked action on the bill by demanding a quorum roll call which resulted in a quorum only after members of the committee agreed to lay the bill over to Jan. 1.

AFL President William Green condemned these dilatory tactics.

"The union shop principle has been approved by the Senate," Mr. Green said. "It has been given the green light by the House interstate and Foreign Commerce committee. That group in the House conducted a sit-down strike and refused to answer to their names in quorum calls until they were given assurances that the legislation would not be brought up for a vote.

"That is a distinctly undemocratic method of conducting the work of Congress. The merits of the bill are unquestioned. This is another act of contempt by a minority to overcome the will of the majority and kill the bill by delay because the 81st Congress is nearing the end of its session.

"I urge the leaders of the House of Representatives not to submit to minority dictation and to make certain that the bill is brought up for a vote before Congress adjourns."

Russian Government Based on Slavery For Individual, Irving Brown Says

Paris, France.—Soviet Russia has created a government based upon the principle of slavery for the individual.

Irving Brown, AFL representative in Europe told the American Club of Paris that the horror of Stalin's totalitarianism should be repeated to the people of Europe and the world until they win the war against communist aggression.

In the battle for the allegiance of workers in western Europe, Mr. Brown said it was imperative to make clearly clear the fact that Stalinist Russia has forsaken the revolution, any comparison which was on the basis of its social regime, and has created a government based upon the principle of slavery for the individual.

"The idea that the Soviets are revolutionary and the United States counter-revolutionary is a fraud," he said. "The American nation is essentially revolutionary in origin and is continually accomplishing its revolution. The Soviet Union has renounced its revolutionary ideals."

The U. S. labor official called for vigorous action to foil communist efforts to reduce the "cold war" struggle to "black-versus-white" arguments on the merits of socialism and capitalism.

"American policy in Europe," he said, "is not to fight for 'free enterprise' but for free society, for free labor, for the right of Europeans themselves to determine democratically what form of economic and social controls they shall or shall not have.

Mr. Brown warned that the theory of "neutralism" for Europe as a force between Russia and the United States is another attitude which the Stalinist Kremlin would welcome.

Communist efforts to capture control of the European trade unions are to sabotage the Marshall Plan are ample evidence that the struggle against Stalinist domination is as much the fight of European democrats as of the United States, Brown said.

"European culture and civilization are at stake. American economic resources are being placed at the disposal of Europe to prevent Europe from going under."

New Secretary

Washington.—R. A. Gritta (left), new secretary AFL Metal Trades Department, and Secretary-Treasurer John J. Murphy of AFL Bricklayers Union, chat with other AFL officials at luncheon for Finnish trade union leaders.

Meany Heads AFL Group to Mexico

Washington.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany heads a delegation of 6 AFL officials to the Western Hemisphere regional conference of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions opening in Mexico City on Jan. 8.

AFL Vice Presidents William C. Doherty, president National Association of Letter Carriers, and William Hutcheson, president Building Service Employees, are members of the executive council in the group.

Others in the delegation are Matthew Davis, executive vice president Teamsters Union; George P. Delaney, AFL international representative, and Serafino Romualdi, AFL international representative for Latin American affairs.

AFL President William Green, in sanctioning the 6, said "I am deeply conscious of the importance of this meeting."

Sessions will be devoted to strengthening the hand of free trade union movements in Latin and South America against communism and fascism.

A report will be made to the AFL executive council at its meeting beginning Jan. 22 in Miami, Fla.

Support and Read Your Union Paper

Washington.—The AFL Union Label Trades Department urged officers and members of affiliated organizations "to give all-out support to the labor press by subscribing for local newspapers and urging members to buy those labor advertisements in them."

The advice was part of a resolution adopted at the 1950 convention and sent to editors of labor newspapers at year-end by Raymond Leheny, secretary-treasurer of the department.

The department "gratefully acknowledges the splendid support and cooperation of the AFL labor press, editors, publishers and members of their respective staffs" for displaying union label news stories and pictures.

RECRUITMENT AGREEMENT

Washington.—In a new move to assure continuation of effective recruitment of civilian manpower for the federal government, the department of Labor and the Civil Service Commission have signed an agreement which provides that the Public Employment Service will serve as the primary source of recruitment for any government activity.

Tobin Sees No Need to Abandon Overtime After 40 Hours of Work

By MAURICE J. TOBIN
U. S. Secretary of Labor

My attention has been called to proposals put forward allegedly to aid the defense effort, which would relax labor standards of vital importance to a full and efficient production.

The labor standards referred to ing are those which have been maintained all during World War II and there is no necessity to change or abandon them now. The most convincing argument for maintaining these fair working conditions and industrial safeguards in the present emergency is that they actually contribute to efficiency. To waive them would be a short-sighted policy which would lead gradually but inevitably to lowered production.

The labor standards which it has been proposed to change is the so-

TUGMEN SIGN

New York.—Representatives of 4,000 tugboat workers in New York Harbor signed an AFL-CIO International Longshoremen's Association pact with a 5-year contract calling for a 16 percent basic wage increase and up to 2 percent cost of living increase.

Buy Independence Bonds.

CONTEST BEGUN

Washington.—High school students are competing for 5 national prizes totalling $2,000 in 35 states in an essay contest titled "Equal Opportunity in Employment for the Physically Handicapped."

called 40-hour week. I should like to say that there is no prohibition in the Fair Labor Standards Act against working more than 40 hours a week.

Labor standards of vital importance to a full and efficient production.

The labor standards referred to ing are those which have been maintained all during World War II and there is no necessity to change or abandon them now. The most convincing argument for maintaining these fair working conditions and industrial safeguards in the present emergency is that they actually contribute to efficiency. To waive them would be a short-sighted policy which would lead gradually but inevitably to lowered production.

The labor standards which it has been proposed to change is the so-called 40-hour week. I should like to say that there is no prohibition in the Fair Labor Standards Act against working more than 40 hours a week.

Labor standards of vital importance to a full and efficient production.

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Indiana AFL Issues Nationwide Call

Indianapolis, Ind.—The Indiana State Federation of Labor issued a declaration of support of the nation in the current emergency and sent copies to each state federation of labor asking for similar declarations.

Copies of the declaration were sent to Indiana's 2 U. S. senators and 11 congressmen and state representatives.

"We particularly request," the declaration said, "that our U. S. senators and members of the House of Representatives refrain from injecting politics into the emergency program to the extent that it would be detrimental to the freedom of our people.

"We also call on our employers not to impose conditions upon our workers' rights to the extent that their willingness to serve during the emergency would be hampered.

"We ask that the farmer, the small business man and other groups now join with us in our determination to protect the United States from a ruthless aggressor."

All Living Costs Reach New Peaks

Washington.—All living costs reached new peaks on Dec. 15.

The Department of Labor's index of retail prices of goods and services bought by moderate income urban families rose 0.2 percent to a half percent higher than last June, 4.2 percent above Oct. 15.

Retail food prices rose 0.2 percent; household things, 1.3 percent; fuel and refrigeration, 0.4 percent; miscellaneous goods and services, 0.6 percent; rents, 0.6 percent; apparel, 1.6 percent.

The over-all increase was 0.5 percent above Oct. 15.

Haggerty Says AFL Eager to Serve U. S.

San Francisco.—Secretary-Treasurer C. J. Haggerty of the California State Federation of Labor said in a radio broadcast here that the AFL is "willing and eager to serve again" in the defense of the nation as it was by 3,000,000 members in World War II.

"We are willing and eager to serve again," he said, "as we also determined that profiteers and grabbers shall not exploit the nation's peril," he added. "We are equally determined that labor shall have a voice in the organizing of the defense effort, for our organization is qualified by devotion and experience to aid in the home front campaign."

Mr. Haggerty said AFL unions have "erected a magnificent movement in the second largest state in the union."

"Together with all men of good will, we look to the future and pray that 1951 shall find us sharing the joys of abundant peace—when the Christmas bells again ring out across the land."